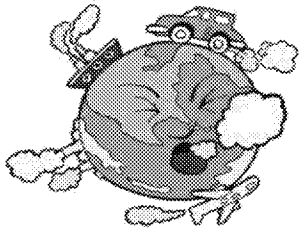


Message

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**From:** OGCLibrary [OGCLibrary@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/12/2018 4:52:19 PM  
**To:** Allnutt, David [Allnutt.David@epa.gov]; Anderson, Lea [anderson.lea@epa.gov]; Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Aranda, Amber [aranda.amber@epa.gov]; Averback, Jonathan [Averback.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Belser, Evan [Belser.Evan@epa.gov]; Bianco, Karen [Bianco.Karen@epa.gov]; Branning, Amy [Branning.Amy@epa.gov]; Bunker, Byron [bunker.byron@epa.gov]; Chapman, Apple [Chapman.Apple@epa.gov]; Cozad, David [Cozad.David@epa.gov]; Crum, Lynda [Crum.Lynda@epa.gov]; Davis, Julian [davis.julian@epa.gov]; Dickinson, David [Dickinson.David@epa.gov]; Dierker, Carl [Dierker.Carl@epa.gov]; Dolph, Becky [Dolph.Becky@epa.gov]; Doster, Brian [Doster.Brian@epa.gov]; Dubey, Susmita [dubey.susmita@epa.gov]; Dubois, Roland [Dubois.Roland@epa.gov]; Frey, Bert [frey.bertram@epa.gov]; Froikin, Sara [Froikin.Sara@epa.gov]; Graham, Cheryl [Graham.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Harrison, Ben [Harrison.Ben@epa.gov]; Hoffman, Howard [hoffman.howard@epa.gov]; Hogan, Stephanie [Hogan.Stephanie@epa.gov]; Holmes, Carol [Holmes.Carol@epa.gov]; Igoe, Sheila [Igoe.Sheila@epa.gov]; Jordan, Scott [Jordan.Scott@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Robert [kaplan.robert@epa.gov]; Kataoka, Mark [Kataoka.Mark@epa.gov]; Klepp, Robert [Klepp.Robert@epa.gov]; Lee, Michael [lee.michaelg@epa.gov]; Lovett, Lauren [Lovett.Lauren@epa.gov]; Mackey, Cyndy [Mackey.Cyndy@epa.gov]; Manners, Mary [manners.mary@epa.gov]; Marks, Matthew [Marks.Matthew@epa.gov]; Matthews, Julie [Matthews.Juliane@epa.gov]; McConkey, Diane [Mcconkey.Diane@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Morgan, Jeanette [Morgan.Jeanette@epa.gov]; Muller, Sheldon [Muller.Sheldon@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Quoc [Nguyen.Quoc@epa.gov]; Adair, Jocelyn [Adair.Jocelyn@epa.gov]; Odendahl, Steve [Odendahl.Steve@epa.gov]; Okoye, Winifred [Okoye.Winifred@epa.gov]; Orlin, David [Orlin.David@epa.gov]; Pastorkovich, Anne-Marie [Pastorkovich.Anne-Marie@epa.gov]; Rodman, Sonja [Rodman.Sonja@epa.gov]; Rowland, John [Rowland.John@epa.gov]; Schaaf, Eric [Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov]; Schmidt, Lorie [Schmidt.Lorie@epa.gov]; Senn, John [Senn.John@epa.gov]; Smith, Kristi [Smith.Kristi@epa.gov]; Snyder, Doug [Snyder.Doug@epa.gov]; Srinivasan, Gautam [Srinivasan.Gautam@epa.gov]; Stahle, Susan [Stahle.Susan@epa.gov]; Starfield, Lawrence [Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Stern, Allyn [Stern.Allyn@epa.gov]; Thrift, Mike [thrift.mike@epa.gov]; Tierney, Jan [tierney.jan@epa.gov]; Ting, Kaytrue [Ting.Kaytrue@epa.gov]; Tsirigotis, Peter [Tsirigotis.Peter@epa.gov]; Versace, Paul [Versace.Paul@epa.gov]; Vetter, Rick [Vetter.Rick@epa.gov]; Werner, Jacqueline [Werner.Jacqueline@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Geoffrey [wilcox.geoffrey@epa.gov]; Williams, Melina [Williams.Melina@epa.gov]; Williamson, Timothy [Williamson.Tim@epa.gov]; Zenick, Elliott [Zenick.Elliott@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Blake, Wendy [Blake.Wendy@epa.gov]; Schramm, Daniel [Schramm.Daniel@epa.gov]; Vergeront, Julie [Vergeront.Julie@epa.gov]; Tozzi, Lauren [Tozzi.Lauren@epa.gov]; Pilchen, Zach [Pilchen.Zach@epa.gov]; Skinner-Thompson, Jonathan [Skinner-Thompson.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Vijayan, Abi [Vijayan.Abi@epa.gov]; Caballero, Kathryn [Caballero.Kathryn@epa.gov]; Thompson, Christopher [Thompson.Christopher@epa.gov]; Williams, Christopher [Williams.Christopher@epa.gov]; Michaels, Lauren [Michaels.Lauren@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Duch [Nguyen.Duch@epa.gov]; Jordan, Deborah [Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]; Charlton, Tom [Charlton.Tom@epa.gov]; Kulschinsky, Edward [Kulschinsky.Edward@epa.gov]; Portmess, Jessica [Portmess.Jessica@epa.gov]; Kryman, Matthew [Kryman.Matthew@epa.gov]; Greenglass, Nora [Greenglass.Nora@epa.gov]; Spina, Providence [Spina.Providence@epa.gov]; Palmer, Karen [Palmer.Karen@epa.gov]; Seidman, Emily [seidman.emily@epa.gov]; Conrad, Daniel [conrad.daniel@epa.gov]; OGC FEAT [OGC\_FEAT@epa.gov]; Hindin, David [Hindin.David@epa.gov]; Sullivan, Tim [Sullivan.Tim@epa.gov]; Carrillo, Andrea [Carrillo.Andrea@epa.gov]; Krallman, John [krallman.john@epa.gov]; Mastro, Donna [Mastro.Donna@epa.gov]; Kane, Eleanor [kane.eleanor@epa.gov]; Ng, Brian [Ng.Brian@epa.gov]; Li, Ryland (Shengzhi) [Li.Ryland@epa.gov]; Spiegelman, Nina [Spiegelman.Nina@epa.gov]; Kodish, Jeff [Kodish.Jeff@epa.gov]; Dugan, Brett [Dugan.Brett@epa.gov]; Traylor, Patrick [traylor.patrick@epa.gov]; Buchsbaum, Seth [buchsbaum.seth@epa.gov]; Iddings, Brianna [Iddings.Brianna@epa.gov]; Knapp, Kristien [Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov]; Nelson, Karen [nelson.karen@epa.gov]; Bodine, Susan [bodine.susan@epa.gov]; Shepherdson, Melanie [Shepherdson.Melanie@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Air & Radiation Law News for February 12, 2018



# Air & Radiation Law News for February 12, 2018

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

Environment & Energy

Bloomberg BNA Resources for EPA temporarily unavailable/renewal pending

## LEADING THE NEWS

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## TODAY'S NEWS

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## NIGHT WRAPUP

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## Redefining EPA

Overhauling an agency and its mission

<https://insideepa.com/agency-at-a-crossroads>

### Latest News

#### **Former DOJ Attorney Says Ozone Order Shows 'Sue-Settle' Policy's Flaw**

A federal district court order's setting a 60-day deadline for EPA to grant or deny Connecticut's petition to regulate interstate air pollution shows the flaw of the agency's "sue-and-settle" directive curbing settlements with litigants because it can lead to much tougher deadlines, a former Justice Department (DOJ) attorney says.

#### **CARB Adopts Truck GHG Rules But Gliders Remain Air Quality Concern**

California on Feb. 8 adopted its Phase 2 greenhouse gas standards for medium and heavy-duty trucks, trailers and glider kits that mimic existing federal rules, but gliders remain a major threat to air quality because EPA has proposed to repeal its glider standards and California can do little to prevent the trucks from operating in the state.

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## Daily Feed

### EPA closing Las Vegas research lab

The decision marks the latest twist in an ongoing saga that began with Obama EPA efforts to reduce the amount of real estate the agency's laboratories use.

### Sierra Club sues EPA over air permitting policy change

Environmentalists are suing EPA over its landmark policy change that bars challenges to underlying air permits in reviews of Clean Air Act Title V operating permits.

### Ewire: Pruitt asks if climate change is 'necessarily' a bad thing

In today's ewire: EPA chief Scott Pruitt wonders whether climate change is a "bad thing." Climate scientists say that for most areas of the world, yes.

### D.C. Circuit orders ozone designations report by May 15

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is pausing litigation over EPA's ozone designations until May 15, but demanding the agency provide a status report at that time.

# GREENWIRE

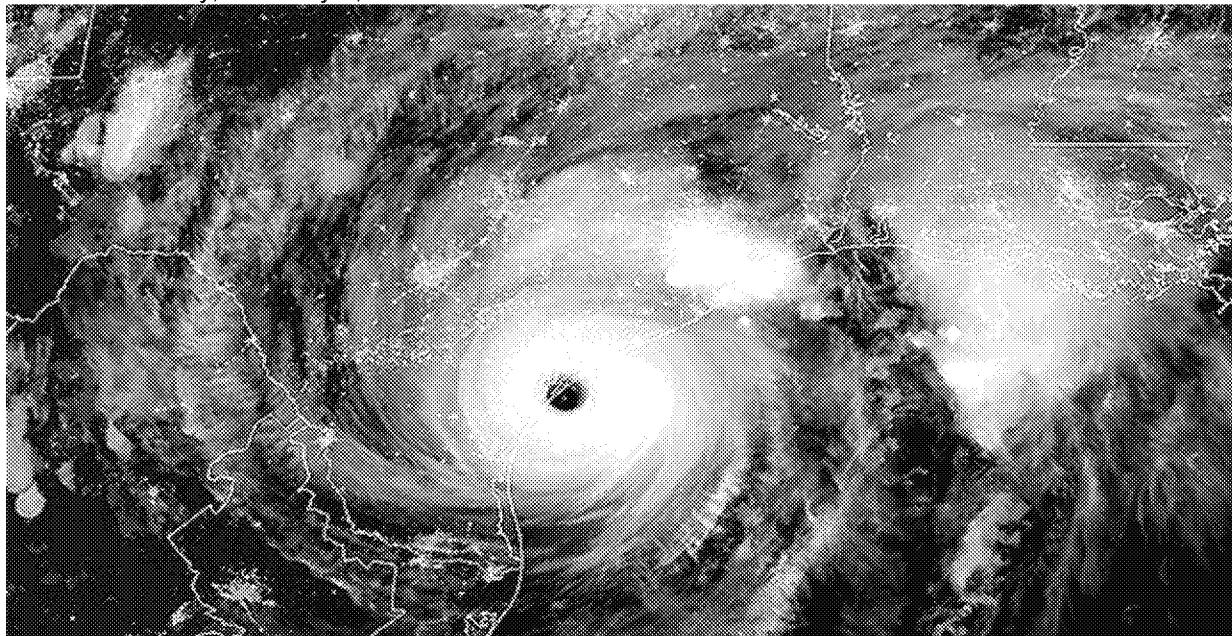
AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

## CLIMATE

### Budget deal a windfall for mitigating sea-level rise

Arianna Skibell, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018



The satellite GOES-16 captured this geocolor imagery of Hurricane Harvey on the verge of making landfall in Texas on Aug. 25, 2017. CIRA/NOAA Satellites/Flickr

While the Trump administration and Republican lawmakers are loathe to mention global warming, there is consensus that "future risks" must be addressed, and the government is now putting taxpayer money where its mouth is.

The broad, two-year budget deal that Congress passed overnight and President Trump signed this morning includes almost \$100 billion in supplemental funding for disaster recovery, with the largest set aside in history for "mitigation activities." The legislation also sets up a cost-share program to reward states that are actively mitigating.

The law allocated \$28 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to repair homes, support businesses and rebuild infrastructure. It designated \$12 billion to address future risks — the largest single allocation for hazard mitigation.

"This looks like we're going to be getting into supporting a large-scale mitigation program," said HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan. "Mitigation has always been an eligible activity [to receive grant funding], but this is \$12 billion for mitigation and mitigation only."

Communities affected by extreme weather events between 2015 and 2017 are eligible to apply for mitigation grants. The other \$16 billion is designated to assist regions affected solely in 2017.

Following Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Congress allocated \$16 billion to assist with the recovery. That included funding for two national resilience competitions: Rebuild by Design and the National Disaster Resilience program.

When Congress allocates fundings for HUD's CDBG program, the agency must write and publish a notice in the *Federal Register* describing how those funds should be used.

Sullivan said that since Sandy, his agency has encouraged grantees to consider future flood events in developing their action plans.

"We have required our grantees to rebuild or to substantially rehabilitate property that they had — to elevate that base flood elevation plus 2 feet," he said. "That's been baked into our rules since Sandy. And that's the reference that's in our most recently published rule."

The agency finalized the notice that determines how Congress' allocation of \$7.4 billion post-Hurricane Harvey funding should be spent in Texas.

While the notice makes no mention of climate change or global warming, it does require grantees to describe how they plan to promote "sound, sustainable long-term recovery" planning that is informed by an evaluation of future risk due to "sea level rise, if applicable."

## Similar to Obama?

It has not been lost on vested parties that the notice uses language similar to the Obama-era flood standards that President Trump revoked (*Climatewire*, Feb. 8).

Sullivan said, however, that the language is not inconsistent with the Trump administration's policy stance. He explained that the rule proposed under Obama would have expanded the requirement used after Superstorm Sandy to build 2 feet above base flood elevation.

"While this administration decided not to go final with the proposed rule from the last administration that would have changed flood standards to something more resilient ... what we published is a repetition of what we have required ever since Sandy," he said.

While the bare minimum requirements may be the same, the language used is not. In a Nov. 18, 2013, notice, HUD describes the requirements for comprehensive risk assessments in utilizing the funds for Sandy recovery.

The notice says grantee's analysis must consider a range of information and best available data, "including forward-looking analyses of risks to infrastructure sectors from climate change and other hazards, such as the Northeast United States Regional Climate Trends and Scenarios from the U.S. National Climate Assessment, the Sea Level Rise Tool for Sandy Recovery."

It also advises grantees to review a Department of Energy report titled, "U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather."

In an Oct. 16, 2014, [notice](#), HUD describes the allocation of funds for Sandy grantees and the Rebuild by Design (RBD) competition.

It states that RBD projects should demonstrate how they will protect against current and future hazards, including risks associated with climate change.

It also stipulates that design teams and their members should represent some of the best "planning, design, and engineering talent in the world," including climate scientists.

## 'A good sign'

Laura Lightbody, project direct for the Pew Charitable Trusts' flood prepared communities program, said she is not going to read too far into the disparate language.

"Of course from a policy perspective, I could say we could always have gone further, but the fact that there are specific provisions related to mitigation at a time when we're addressing one of the largest hurricane seasons on record — that's critically important not only so we're investing in those places but so we're sending a signal to other places around the country that are at risk," she said.

"This is a good sign," she said. "We should be applauding HUD for continuing to put guidance out around smarter rebuilding."

Lightbody said whether or not the administration uses the phrase "climate change" may not matter as long as future risk is being addressed.

"We all know the undisputed facts that events, particularly like flooding, are becoming more common and costly," she said. "It has to be addressed, and we know the numbers are there in terms of return on investment."

The latest [estimate](#) from the National Institute of Building Sciences found that for every \$1 of federal investment in mitigation, the country saves \$6 in future costs. That estimate is \$2 higher than the NIBS's widely cited 2005 calculation of \$1 to \$4.

She also praised the cost-share provision in the disaster supplemental. The package amends the Stafford Act to allow the federal cost share for certain disaster assistance to go from 75 percent to 85 percent if recipients have taken hazard mitigation steps ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 8).

"This would, in a way, sort of reward states that do invest in resilience and disaster preparedness by doing things like enhancing building standards or participating in National Flood Insurance Program community rating system or other mitigation programs," she said.

"When we're talking about mitigation, we're talking about risk reduction and reducing losses for the future," she said. "I think you can sort of come at this from a risk reduction and saving taxpayer dollars and still put a stamp on mitigation, and we're seeing this from this administration and from Congress."

President Trump is expected to release his fiscal 2019 budget proposal Monday. In his 2018 request, he pushed for ending HUD's CDBG program and for cutting FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation grants in half.

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### The shutdown you slept through

[Kevin Bogardus](#), E&E News reporter



President Trump, shown here in a file photo, signed a budget deal this morning to raise spending for much of the federal government. White House

At midnight, with the Senate still yet not having voted on a two-year budget deal that included another short-term funding package, federal agencies began to prepare to close today.

But by sunrise in Washington, the legislation with new funding had already passed the Senate and later the House to keep the government open.

"Just signed Bill," President Trump tweeted at 8:39 this morning. "Our Military will now be stronger than ever before. We love and need our Military and gave them everything — and more. First time this has happened in a long time. Also means JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!"

The Office of Management and Budget is reworking Trump's fiscal 2019 budget plan, which will be released Monday, to adhere to new higher budget caps set by the legislation. A senior OMB official said the White House will release an addendum explaining how the administration will account for new discretionary spending of about \$300 billion for both defense and non-defense agencies for the next two years.

"In light of this agreement, we are modifying our FY19 budget request to account for these new cap levels," said the official.

OMB will release an addendum laying out how the Trump administration will account for the higher caps.

"It will include additional FY19 funding for a limited set of Administration priorities as well as proposals to fix certain budget gimmicks used to circumvent the spending caps," the official said.

"Separate from our FY19 budget request and addendum, we will also be providing technical assistance to Congress on how we recommend Congress allocate funding under the increased FY18 caps."

The overnight shutdown also led to a pair of dueling memos from OMB Director Mick Mulvaney.

Yesterday, he sent a notice to agency heads to begin implementing shutdown plans. But today, Mulvaney distributed a new memo saying today would be business as usual for the federal government.

"All employees who were on furlough due to the absence of appropriations may now return to work," said the budget director. "You should reopen office in a prompt and orderly manner."

The Office of Personnel Management updated the government's operating status to open, saying employees were expected to return for work.

Some agencies planned to stay open even if there were a funding lapse.

In an [email](#) to employees yesterday, U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agency would use carryover funds to remain open today and Monday if the government shut down. EPA also remained open during last month's shutdown, which lasted over a weekend and into the following Monday ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 9).

## CARBON CAPTURE

### Cheers and jeers as Trump signs CCS credits into law

[Christa Marshall](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018



The Petra Nova carbon capture project in Texas is the first demonstration of capturing carbon dioxide from coal generation at scale in the United States. Edward Klump/E&E News

*This story was updated at 2:30 p.m. EST.*

President Trump signed a spending bill into law today that drew cheers from carbon capture supporters and protests from clean-tech advocates.

Congress passed the stopgap spending measure early this morning, after a brief government shutdown. The package includes bipartisan language from a coalition of coal-state senators and Democrats concerned about climate change that would expand existing credits for carbon capture, utilization and storage projects.

At one point in the tax extenders debate, it was uncertain whether CCS language would make it and if so, which congressional bill might be included. It's also one of the few examples of Trump signing language to help technologies whose chief purpose is to lower greenhouse gas emissions, although the bill wasn't given the "climate" label.

The "Furthering Carbon Capture, Utilization, Technology, Underground Storage and Reduced Emissions (FUTURE) Act" was sponsored by Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and others. Heitkamp and Whitehouse first introduced it in 2016.

The bill signed by Trump would more than double tax credits for sequestration of captured carbon dioxide, make them available for a 12-year period and eliminate a cap on the program that advocates say is holding back projects. It also

would clarify the types of projects that would qualify and allow credits for air capture and other "utilization" of carbon dioxide outside of enhanced oil recovery (*E&E Daily*, July 13, 2017).

"With 70 percent of North Dakota's electricity derived from coal, it's clear that we need to forge a viable path forward for coal to meet our energy needs," Heitkamp said in a statement.

A coalition of environmentalists, labor unions, and coal and oil companies had been pushing for the legislation for almost a decade as part of the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative.

"The FUTURE Act represents one of the most significant energy and environmental accomplishments by Congress in recent memory," said Brad Crabtree, vice president of fossil energy for the Great Plains Institute, which co-convenes NEORI with the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

A central question is how much the broader tax credit alone will translate on the ground, and which types of projects might benefit the most.

The IRS hasn't released a public list of companies and projects that have used the CCS credits so far. Some companies like NET Power LLC, which is firing up the world's largest demonstration in Texas to use carbon dioxide as a working fluid in a power plant, have said that the expanded tax credits could make the difference in whether they build a commercial plant (*Greenwire*, Jan. 16).

Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton White House climate adviser, said that even with new incentives, CCS is likely to be applied almost exclusively as retrofits to existing plants, rather than new builds.

"Rock-bottom natural gas prices will make it difficult for coal plants retrofitted with CCS to compete on price, although coal plants that use CO<sub>2</sub> for enhanced oil recovery will have an additional revenue stream and a better chance," he said.

The real policy goal of the tax credits is to spur industry experiments that can drive down the cost of the technology over the medium term, Bledsoe said. In the long run, CCS is likely to be applied to natural gas plants to help bring "deep carbonization" of electricity, he said.

ClearPath spokesman Darren Goode disagreed and said that the expanded credits will help new generation and not just retrofits, particularly on natural gas.

Others were unhappy with the tax extenders.

Prior to the vote, 13 environmental groups sent a letter to House Democrats slamming the CCS provisions as a giveaway to fossil fuel companies that would increase oil production.

"The reality is that this bargain will deepen the climate crisis. Senator Whitehouse and the rest of the Democratic Caucus should have risen up and rejected this poison pill," said Lukas Ross, a climate and energy campaigner at Friends of the Earth.

On Twitter, Jason Burwen, policy and advocacy director at the Energy Storage Association, wrote, "Congress places its bets on what's more important for energy and climate policy. Fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> storage = 12 years of tax credits. Energy storage = no tax credits."

The group had been pushing for congressional language to allow inclusion of energy storage in the investment tax credit, saying in a statement this week that "allowing energy storage access to the same ITC is critical to ensure a level playing field across all energy technologies."

The American Council on Renewable Energy called the measure a "major disappointment" because tax credits for hydropower, geothermal and marine energy did not get extended through 2021 and instead got retroactive incentives for 2017.

"Tax credits are supposed to be incentives and you don't encourage investment in these important technologies with credits that are only available last year," the group said in a statement.

The bill also extended credits for "orphaned" technologies not included in a budget deal years ago, including geothermal heat pumps and small wind systems.

"Placing small wind on parity to solar for the investment tax credit allows corporations as well as small businesses and farms in the heartland of our country to realize the monetary value of their natural renewable resources," said Ciel Caldwell, president and chief operating officer of Northern Power Systems.

The measure also would eliminate a 2020 deadline to claim a tax credit for new nuclear plants, which is seen as boost for Georgia Power's Vogtle plant.

## DOE

### Agency pushes back on reports of coal bailout

Sam Mintz and Hannah Northey, E&E News reporters

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018



The Energy Department denied reports that it is considering using emergency authority to prop up FirstEnergy coal plants. Claudine Hellmuth/E&E News

The Department of Energy today moved to deny a news report that Energy Secretary Rick Perry is considering using federal emergency authority to prop up struggling coal plants.

DOE spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said a Bloomberg story published last night citing multiple anonymous sources was based on "false information." The [article](#) said the Trump administration is considering using emergency orders under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act to compensate coal plants owned by utility FirstEnergy Corp.

The provision states that in case of an emergency, the Energy secretary can order certain plants to run.

"There is no application for a 202c order under consideration for First Energy [sic] at this time," Hynes said in an email.

DOE has used such authority in the past, including under Perry's watch, but only narrowly and usually limited to individual plants or to transmission lines. Using it in a broader way to support coal plants would likely be the subject of significant legal challenges.

Analysts expressed skepticism that Perry would make such a legally vulnerable move or that such short-term treatment would address the longer-term financial woes the coal sector and FirstEnergy are facing.

Washington Analysis energy analysts Rob Rains and Whitney Stanco told clients in a note today that evidence of threats to reliability has been sparse, downplaying any "emergency" that would underpin the statutory authority DOE has to take such a step.

They pointed out that multiple studies, including a high-profile report by DOE itself, have found that there is no imminent reliability challenge.

"Furthermore, the statute that empowers DOE, Federal Power Act Section 202(c), expressly indicates that such a step must be temporary, meaning that any kind of arrangement would not be a permanent solution and would be unlikely to meaningfully thwart any longer-term plans to shutter the facility," Rains and Stanco wrote.

The law also does not specifically speak to compensation, said Joel Eisen, an energy law professor at the University of Richmond.

"It is an open question about whether DOE could mandate a specific level of compensation, although a challenge to any order doing so would have to argue that an order doing so does not 'serve the public interest.' This would be a relatively low bar for DOE to meet, and I believe it is more appropriate to focus on whether DOE could order coal and nuclear plants to keep running in the first instance," Eisen said in an email.

## Lobbying blitz

DOE in recent months has used its emergency authority sparingly. It has also rejected pleas for special treatment from Bob Murray, an Ohio coal executive who has Trump's ear and whose company, Murray Energy Corp., supplies some FirstEnergy plants (*E&E News PM*, Aug. 22, 2017).

Last year, Perry issued two emergency orders referring to specific coal plants, one in Virginia and one in Oklahoma, that had been shut down or set to close due to environmental standards under the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards.

In both instances, DOE said the temporary reprieves from shutting down were needed to ensure grid reliability.

Other past uses of the authority include responses to the major energy crisis in California in 2000 and the 2003 blackout in the Northeast and Midwest.

To be sure, both DOE and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in recent months have been subject to heavy lobbying from both Murray and FirstEnergy as additional coal plants close amid a surge of cheap natural gas.

FirstEnergy has pushed the agencies to provide compensation for its plants — the company was one of the key backers behind a proposal from DOE to support coal and nuclear plants in certain electricity markets in the name of grid resilience, which was ultimately rejected by FERC.

FERC, an independent agency, is now waiting to hear back from grid operators, which have been asked to report on the resilience of their regions and whether any actions are needed to maintain reliability.

DOE has said it is weighing all options to ensure the grid's security, hinting at using its authority under the Federal Power Act.

"With respect to this particular case at this particular time, the White House and the Department of Energy are in agreement that the evidence does not warrant the use of this emergency authority," an agency spokeswoman told the Associated Press in August.

FirstEnergy and Murray's spokesman, Gary Broadbent, said today they were unaware of Perry or other DOE officials considering the use of such authority. But Broadbent added that doing so would be an "excellent action," since Perry's request for new policy at FERC failed.

"Invoking this provision would be an excellent action by the DOE, in light of the failure of the [FERC] to address the lack of reliability and resiliency in the electric power grids, and to preserve low cost electricity in America," he said.

## ENERGY POLICY

# Poll finds shrinking public support for coal

Sam Mintz, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Americans are growing more supportive of phasing out all coal plants and at the same time less supportive of clean coal technology, according to new polling data released this week.

The national survey by the University of Michigan and Muhlenberg College has been conducted biannually since 2008.

The latest from 2017 found that 29 percent of respondents strongly support phasing out all coal plants, and 19 percent somewhat support such a move. Those figures are up from 18 percent of respondents who showed strong support and 22 percent who were somewhat inclined in the fall of 2016.

The study contacted 929 U.S. adults by telephone between Oct. 4 and Nov. 19, 2017, and had a 3.2-percentage-point margin of error.

"With U.S. coal-fired generation at 30% at the end of 2016, the thought of a complete phase-out seems not nearly as far-fetched — or expensive — as it once may have seemed," the pollsters wrote in a report analyzing the results.

Hundreds of coal plants have retired or announced they plan to retire in the past 10 years, bringing hundreds of thousands of megawatts of power off the electric grid.

The shift in public opinion extended to Republicans, 30 percent of whom said in 2017 they strongly or somewhat supported phasing out coal, up from 23 percent the year before.

The poll also found shrinking support for clean coal over the last decade. In 2008, 51 percent of people said they strongly supported state government support for clean coal technology, and 29 percent somewhat supported the principle. Last fall, 36 percent strongly supported it, and 31 percent somewhat backed clean coal efforts.

"Though majorities of Americans across the political spectrum still say they favor state government support for clean coal, this pattern of falling strong support and rising opposition between 2008 and 2017 has been true across partisan affiliations," the authors wrote.

Federal messaging and efforts on carbon capture and sequestration technology, one method of using coal in a cleaner way, have been inconsistent.

Despite President Trump's repeated claims of support, his administration's budget request last year for the Department of Energy called for significant cuts to CCS research and development.

Notably, attitudes on clean coal did not differ significantly between states with active coal mines and those without.

"That the [survey] did not find a difference based on coal mining versus non-mining states is likely the result of [rural] mining interests being relatively small compared to the overall economy in these states," the authors wrote.

Clean coal may also refer to efforts to make power plants more efficient or implement technology to further remove impurities from air releases.

National Mining Association spokesman Luke Popovich said poll respondents may not have known about the potential negative impacts of eliminating coal fired power.

"So in fact suggesting a phase out is the only rational choice for most who have no idea of what they'd be losing," he said.

## PEOPLE

### Obama EPA official lands at Ore. charity

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Michelle DePass, a former Obama-era senior U.S. EPA official, will soon take on a prominent role in philanthropy.



Michelle DePass. Meyer Memorial Trust

DePass was named yesterday as the new president and CEO of the Meyer Memorial Trust. The group makes monetary awards to help improve the environment, equality, housing and the arts in Oregon.

She will officially start at the trust on April 30, with former CEO Doug Stamm then serving as an adviser for up to six months.

DePass is currently the dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at the New School in New York.

In 2009, she started working at EPA, where she was the assistant administrator for international and tribal affairs. DePass left the agency in 2013 for the academic position.

The Portland, Ore.-based trust was created by the late Fred Meyer, the founder of the Pacific Northwest chain of retail superstores.

## **EPA**

### **Schwarzenegger on Pruitt: 'This is so sad'**

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) said yesterday that he was "so sad" about the environmental policy shift that has occurred at U.S. EPA under the Trump administration.

Schwarzenegger made his remarks during a California Air Resources Board meeting in remembrance of the board's first chair, Arie Jan Haagen-Smit.

"Haagen-Smit was the man. Now, 50 years later, you have Trump appointing [Scott] Pruitt to the EPA. What happened?" Schwarzenegger said. "This is so sad."

The former governor was among four honorees at the meeting. The group also included former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

Schwarzenegger praised the board and California's cap-and-trade program.

"Now other states are inspired, and the whole world is inspired by the great work that has been done in California," he said (Billy Kobin, *Sacramento Bee*, Feb. 8). — CS

## HOUSE

### Energy and Commerce staff director dies at 62

Sam Mintz, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Ray Baum, staff director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, died today after a battle with cancer. He was 62.

The committee said in a statement that Baum died this morning surrounded by his family.

Baum and Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), the committee's chairman, worked together in the Oregon Legislature after both were elected in 1988.



Ray Baum. Baum/LinkedIn

After eight years in the state Legislature, including two as majority leader, Baum became chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.

He later moved to Washington to join the Energy and Commerce Committee staff as a senior policy adviser when Walden became part of its leadership.

He took over as staff director of the committee in December 2016 when Walden became chairman of the full committee.

"Ray dedicated his life to public service, first as an elected official and then as an adviser on Capitol Hill. Our committee, the people of Oregon, and our country are better off because of Ray's selfless service. Ray will be deeply missed, but he will not be forgotten," Walden said in a statement.

"The Energy and Commerce Committee will strive to honor Ray's legacy of decency and kindness through our work, and more importantly, by following the example Ray set through the graciousness and honor he showed every day," he said.

Tributes for Baum also poured in from three commissioners on the Federal Communications Commission and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

"Ray Baum was a kind-hearted man with a deep commitment to public service. The whole House mourns his passing. Please keep Ray's wife, Kristine, and their family in your prayers," Ryan said in a statement.

Robert Powelson, a commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also put out a statement mourning his fellow former state utility commissioner.

"Wonderful person, huge asset to [the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners] and a true thought leader here in DC. Thoughts and prayers go out to Ray's family and colleagues," wrote Powelson, who before joining FERC was NARUC president and a Pennsylvania regulator.

## APPROPRIATIONS

### Puerto Rico aid money a 'starting point' — officials

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Puerto Rican officials secured a rare win this week when Senate leaders included funding for disaster relief in its two-year deal to avoid a government shutdown.

But the numbers still fall short of what Puerto Rico has said it needs to recover. For example, to fix the island's power grid, officials asked for \$17 billion. The Senate set aside \$2 billion.

"All of this money, it's a starting point to initiate recovery and reconstruction," said Carlos Mercader, the executive director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington. "There's still a lot of work to do with Congress and the administration."

The package would give Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands \$4.8 billion for Medicaid.

"Receiving these funds is important, and that will demonstrate that Puerto Rico will use them wisely and with transparency," said Jenniffer González-Colón, Puerto Rico's sole congressional representative. "That's an important issue here: We can be a model for how to invest in infrastructure on the island" (Patricia Mazzei, *New York Times*, Feb. 8). — CS

## CLEAN POWER PLAN

### EPA seeks continued hold on suits as high court stay turns 2

Amanda Reilly, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

U.S. EPA today renewed its request that federal judges keep the massive litigation over the Clean Power Plan on hold.

Lawyers for EPA filed a status report arguing that the litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit should remain in abeyance.

This latest request by EPA coincides with the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's surprising decision to stay the Clean Power Plan, which aimed to lower carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The court's 5-4 decision on Feb. 9, 2016 — the last vote that the late Justice Antonin Scalia cast before his death — ground implementation of the rule to a halt.

The Obama-era rule, which critics say went beyond the scope of EPA's authority in the Clean Air Act, has been stayed since.

Though the litigation over the Clean Power Plan in the D.C. Circuit is fully briefed and argued, it too has been suspended since last April, when the court granted a Trump administration motion to hold the case in abeyance.

In today's status report, EPA reiterated its plans to repeal and potentially replace the Clean Power Plan. The agency is planning to hold three public listening sessions on a proposal to repeal the rule in February and March.

Separately, the agency issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking asking for input on the scope of any potential replacement for the Clean Power Plan. The comment period on that notice closes Feb. 26.

"These cases should remain in abeyance pending the conclusion of rulemaking," EPA's report said.

Environmentalists and state supporters of the Clean Power Plan have urged the D.C. Circuit to issue a ruling. They say that the Supreme Court's ongoing stay has allowed EPA to skirt its legal obligation to address greenhouse gases.

## OFF TOPIC

### This meteorologist wants to tutor Trump on climate science

Maxine Joselow, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018



Keith Seitter is the executive director of the American Meteorological Society. Special to E&E News

When President Trump said last month that Earth is "too cold," Keith Seitter couldn't help but offer the president his tutoring services.

Seitter, executive director of the American Meteorological Society, fired off a [letter](#) to the White House offering scientific counsel after Trump undercut mainstream climate science in an interview with television host Piers Morgan.

The president told Morgan during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland: "There is a cooling, and there's a heating. I mean, look, it used to not be climate change, it used to be global warming. That wasn't working too well because it was getting too cold all over the place" ([Climatewire](#), Jan. 29).

## E&E SERIES



Energy and environmental newsmakers dish on politics, pet peeves and their TV addictions. [Click here](#) to read more stories in this series.

That's simply not so, Seitter responded in his letter. "Unfortunately, these and other climate-related comments in the interview are not consistent with scientific observations from around the globe."

He added, "There is a wealth of comprehensive and accurate information on climate change available to you and your staff within government agencies, as well as from experts in academic institutions and other organizations. The American Meteorological Society stands ready to provide assistance in connecting Executive Branch staff with that knowledge and expertise."

Seitter has yet to hear back from the White House, but he's holding out hope Trump or a member of his Cabinet will respond.

An Ohio native, Seitter became fascinated with meteorology at a young age. He remembers feeling drawn to the study of extreme weather after riding out tornado warnings in his family's basement.

After working in the Air Force and teaching meteorology at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Seitter joined AMS in 1999 and never left.

The 61-year-old father of two recently chatted with E&E News from his office in Boston about taking on Trump, being a "cool" dad and woodworking in his spare time.

### **Why did you decide to write the letter to Trump correcting his comments on global warming?**

In terms of the science and what the science is saying, we don't write that many letters. But when we find it's a situation where someone has significantly misstated the facts, then we feel it's necessary to send something out that helps correct that.

I think it's unfortunate when someone who's in a leadership position makes a statement that goes against the well-established science. So I think that was a concern.

### **You wrote in the letter that AMS "stands ready" to help educate Trump and the White House staff about climate change. Do you think they'll take you up on that offer?**

Honestly, no. We've sent letters to Cabinet-level folks in the past or other folks on the Hill, and typically we do not get a response. But that's all right. It's not expected.

### **Why isn't it expected?**

Well, I think the hope is always that somebody at the staff level will reach out to us and really accept the offer of having AMS help provide connections to the science. It would be wonderful, for example, if someone from the [White House Office of Science and Technology Policy] were to reach out to AMS and begin working with us more directly in terms of what the science is saying and how that impacts policy issues.

### **How often do meteorologists in the U.S. tend to mention climate change when reporting on the weather?**

I think this is an area where there's been a lot of change. We have been monitoring how meteorologists have been dealing with climate change issues. The consensus is that this is coming up more frequently. And I think, by and large, there's an increasing level of awareness within the meteorological community that this is an important issue and one that needs to be addressed.

### **Why might meteorologists refrain from mentioning it? Are politics involved?**

Specifically with broadcast meteorologists, there are certainly some stations where the management discourages the meteorologists from talking about this issue. There are some broadcasters who feel their knowledge level makes them less confident talking about this issue. Certainly, there are some who choose not to talk about it because of their own personal political leanings, as well.

**Do you think the recent extreme weather events — such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and the wildfires out West — have helped spread awareness about climate change to the public?**

It certainly seems so. That's been part of those discussions. And sometimes it's been part of discussions in ways that have not been terribly helpful. But I think it has certainly raised awareness of climate change issues.

Some of the things that people have said have not been scientifically correct. It would be nice if everything that was being said was actually based in science. But unfortunately, that's not true.

**How did you first become interested in meteorology?**

Actually, I started wanting to study the weather when I was very young. I've always been fascinated by it. It really goes back to when I was in grade school. I grew up in Ohio, and I rode out several tornado situations in the basement of our home. Our house was never struck by a tornado, but my uncle's farm was hit by a tornado. And again, I just had a deep fascination with the weather from a very early age and just pursued that throughout.

**What is your family like?**

I've got two kids. Two boys. One is in college now. The other one graduated from college a couple of years ago and is a biomedical engineer working at a startup. My wife works, as well. She does voice work for telephone systems and commercials and those sorts of things.

**What does your family think of what you do for work? Do they think it's cool?**

I think there are some times when they think it's pretty cool. But I'm not sure my kids always think I'm the coolest person on Earth.

**What are your hobbies?**

My primary hobby is doing woodworking. I enjoy that quite a bit. It allows me to relax and get away from the things where I have to think about stuff and just use my hands to build something.

**What have you built?**

Mostly furniture around the house. Like the furniture in my kids' rooms. Their beds and dressers and those sorts of things. None of it's going to win any awards.

## **CANADA**

### **Trudeau saw Trump as good news for energy — documents**

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government saw President Trump's election as welcome news for the Canadian energy sector, according to documents obtained by the London *Guardian*.

"The swearing in of a new administration in the United States that recognizes the strategic importance of Canada's role in North American energy security is, so far, positive news for the Canadian energy sector with regard to a potential increase in energy trade," according to a May 2017 document obtained through an open records request.

The documents reveal a different side of Trudeau's Liberal government, which has been lauded by environmentalists for its green promises.

Canadian government officials viewed Trump as likely to expedite the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Alberta, according to the documents.

While former President Obama rejected Keystone XL, Trump ultimately approved it in March 2017 ([Greenwire](#), March 24, 2017).

The parliamentary secretary to Canada's foreign affairs minister met around that time with representatives from TransCanada Corp. and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) to discuss promoting the pipeline and oil exports.

CAPP declined to comment on the details of the meeting (Martin Lukacs, [London Guardian](#), Feb. 9). — MJ

## ALASKA

### 261 oil field workers laid off

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

A contractor in Alaska's biggest oil field plans to lay off 261 employees.

Mistras Group Inc. and subsidiary Quality Services Laboratories Inc. will dismiss the workers around March 31, according to a letter from Julie Marini, vice president of human resources for Mistras, to state officials.

Of the 261 employees, 182 are union workers.

The move comes after BP PLC hired a new contractor, Kakivik Asset Management LLC, to cut costs in its Prudhoe Bay operations.

Kakivik plans to replace the laid-off workers with mostly non-union employees, said spokeswoman Sheila Schooner (Alex DeMarban, [Anchorage Daily News](#), Feb. 8). — MJ

## COAL

### Utility cited for violation after miner's death

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Wyoming officials have cited Rocky Mountain Power for a safety violation related to a miner's death last year.

Miner Jaime Olivas died in September when a wall in the Bridger underground coal mine collapsed.

The 39-year-old father of two was found buried under a pile of coal. The Mine Safety and Health Administration and the state mine inspector's office are still investigating his death.

State officials determined that the company violated a rule requiring roofs, ribs and walls to be secured when miners are present.

"The employee was working in an area where the face was not supported or controlled to protect persons from the hazards related to fall of ribs or face," officials said in a report.

In October, it was revealed that the mine had been fined for safety problems with roofs and walls more than 60 times in the past seven years, according to federal mine safety data ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 23, 2017; Heather Richards, [Casper \[Wyo.\] Star-Tribune](#), Feb. 8). — MJ

## UTILITIES

### Drones could replace workers on Md. power line inspections

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Maryland's largest gas and electric utility wants to use drones to inspect more than 40,000 power lines and poles.

Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. will begin testing the drones today as part of a pilot program. Equipped with cameras, the drones will replace the workers who normally conduct the inspections through binoculars or climbing.

AeroLabs, the software research and development arm of BGE parent company Exelon Corp., will manufacture the technology.

The drones will shoot both photos and videos to uncover any damage or deterioration, said BGE spokesman Jarrett Carter. Employees will eventually be trained to become federally licensed drone pilots, he said.

The idea has some precedent: In 2015, Commonwealth Edison Co. became the first utility to rely on drones for inspections ([Energywire](#), April 14, 2015).

Since then, PECO Energy Co. has also deployed the technology (Lorraine Mirabella, [Baltimore Sun](#), Feb. 8). — MJ

## EPA

### Las Vegas research shop to close

[Kevin Bogardus](#) and [Sean Reilly](#), E&E News reporters

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018



U.S. EPA plans to close the Las Vegas location of its National Exposure Research Laboratory. University of Nevada-Las Vegas

U.S. EPA is leaving Las Vegas. Or at least its research staff is exiting Sin City.

In an [internal email](#) obtained by E&E News, Tim Watkins, director of EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, said the agency's Office of Research and Development would be ending its operations in Las Vegas at the close of this fiscal year.

"Earlier today I met with our staff in Las Vegas to let them know that ORD will be ending all operations in Las Vegas as of September 30, 2018," Watkins said in the email sent Tuesday to employees.

Watkins went on to say, "The drivers behind the decision are the continued pressure to reduce the amount of federally leased space by consolidating operations into federally owned space and to reduce our overall operational costs moving forward."

EPA's research office branch in Las Vegas had long been under consideration for closure. The location and other agency laboratory operations across the country have been targeted for consolidation, which EPA employees credit to an Obama-era initiative to reduce the federal government's office space ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 20, 2017).

Watkins added, "As I mentioned in my discussion with our staff earlier today, announcing this decision was extremely difficult, but our colleagues in Las Vegas are now faced with an even more difficult set of decisions from both a personal and professional perspective."

EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said the move to transfer research office employees out of leased space in Las Vegas will result in cost savings for the agency and taxpayers.

"EPA is consolidating services into EPA-owned buildings in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Research Triangle Park, N.C. This decision will save taxpayer dollars and streamline layers. EPA staff will be given the opportunity to relocate to an EPA-owned facility by the summer of 2018," Bowman said. The agency would pay relocation costs.

Watkins' lab delves into exposure science, which studies how humans and other organisms respond to environmental "stressors" that can affect health, and how to mitigate those risks. The lab is headquartered in Research Triangle Park, and along with Las Vegas, it also has offices in Cincinnati and Athens, Ga.

The closure will affect 33 ORD employees at the lab and two other units, said Ann Pitchford, a research physical scientist who has worked at EPA for more than 40 years and heads the National Association of Government Employees local union.

It will also affect one Forest Service employee who works out of the agency's offices, which are spread across three buildings in the same complex. Senior managers will be visiting at the end of this month, Pitchford said, for one-on-one meetings with employees to "talk through the options."

Another 17 staffers with EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management, located across the street, will have to be out by the end of July, she said. For both groups, the options are to move to another EPA facility, retire or leave, Pitchford said.

While some are planning to retire, others want to keep working. Pitchford, for example, who is currently involved in a study of pesticide use in California's Central Valley, would like to move to Cincinnati instead of retiring.

But some staff members face difficult choices.

"It's not happy," Pitchford added.

She said, "We have families, and it's quite a hardship to pick up and move." For those who can't, "their expertise and their research focus is lost."

The union is also working to allow affected employees to telework from Las Vegas, Pitchford said. That option "would allow them to finish their careers and would maintain the capabilities and expertise in the agency," she said.

ORD employees learned of the closure decision this week, she said. While the chemists were told last year that they would have to move, others thought they would be able to remain in Las Vegas — albeit in different quarters — until 2025.

That expectation was shattered Tuesday morning, when it was announced in a meeting "that everyone had to either relocate or retire or resign," Pitchford said.

*Reporter Niina Heikkinen contributed.*

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL

## Fla. train hits pedestrian

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

A Brightline high-speed train hit a pedestrian in South Florida yesterday. The unidentified victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Fire officials said the man ended up lying between the tracks, so the train passed over without killing him. It is not clear whether safety gates were up when the accident occurred.

It is the sixth incident by the private passenger rail line since test runs began last year. Brightline now has had four fatalities and two non-fatal accidents since last year.

The trains can run at 79 mph; previous incidents have involved someone either standing on the tracks or trying to cross them as a train approached. Brightline said its own safety practices were not a factor in any of the accidents.

Service will grow in the coming months to include Miami-Dade County.

County Mayor Carlos Giménez requested a safety review of the new route last month, and Florida Sens. Marco Rubio (R) and Bill Nelson (D) asked for a federal safety study of Brightline (Teproff/Vassolo, *Miami Herald*, Feb. 8). — NB

## AIR POLLUTION

### EPA to strike Obama haze plan for Ark. coal plants

Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

U.S. EPA is forging ahead with a recent decision to strike part of an Obama-era regional haze reduction plan that would have required five coal-fired power plants in Arkansas to install new controls to curb emissions of nitrogen oxides.

In a pair of final rules set for publication in Monday's *Federal Register*, the agency is both withdrawing the portion of the 2016 plan that mandated the new controls and approving a state substitute that instead relies on Arkansas' participation in the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) emissions trading program to comply with regional haze goals. EPA announced the decision last month (*E&E News PM*, Jan. 29).

The Obama plan, which would also require stiff cuts in sulfur dioxide releases, is already embroiled in litigation before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals involving environmental groups, Entergy Corp. and other business organizations. That litigation is in abeyance until early April. Publication of the two new rules will open a standard 60-day window under the Clean Air Act for any fresh legal challenges to be filed.

EPA's regional haze program, dating back to 1999 in its current form, aims to restore clear skies to 156 national parks and wilderness areas by 2064.

In imposing the 2016 plan over state objections, EPA predicted that it would eventually cut annual releases of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide from the affected power plants by 15,100 tons and 68,500 tons, respectively, and improve visibility in Caney Creek Wilderness and the Upper Buffalo Wilderness, both of which are in Arkansas, as well as the Hercules Glades Wilderness and the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri.

But Entergy, which runs several of those power plants, has said that its share of the compliance price tag will be \$2 billion; Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge (R) has argued that the federal plan could imperil electric grid reliability (*Greenwire*, Feb. 28, 2017).

In the state substitute approved last month by EPA, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality dropped the comparison of the NOx reductions expected by using CSAPR in place of the federal approach "because such information is not necessary" to gain EPA's blessing, according to the rule.

The Arkansas agency is now working on alternatives to the federal plan's requirements for addressing sulfur dioxide and particulate matter pollution.

## COLORADO

### Former governor praises candidate's proposals

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

Former Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm (D) has endorsed Democrat Mike Johnston in the state's gubernatorial race, citing the candidate's environmental proposals.

Saying he's never seen a more promising candidate, Lamm said Johnston, a state senator, can guide the state to "thoughtful growth paired with protection of natural resources and advancement of public education."

Johnston is a leader in a packed primary that includes U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne, former state Treasurer Cary Kennedy, and business executive and civic leader Noel Ginsburg.

Both Johnston and Polis are campaigning on plans to power Colorado entirely on renewable energy by 2040.

Current Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) is term-limited (Ernest Luning, [Colorado Springs Gazette](#), Feb. 7). — NB

## NIGERIA

### Push to clean polluted city: 'We need to help ourselves'

Published: Friday, February 9, 2018

A Nigerian man is gaining praise for leading local teenagers in a cleanup of one of the most polluted cities in the world.

"It is good to always lead by example, not by talking talking talking," Chris Junior Anaeke posted on Facebook.

Located in southern Nigeria, Onitsha is a densely populated port city. Anaeke said he wanted locals to see that they have a role in the cleanup.


"I wanted the kids to be the ones to clean up. I believe it will go a long way to teach them a lesson: that they are the protectors of their own environment. ... We need to help ourselves. We must not wait for the government," he said.

Anaeke describes himself as Nigeria's self-selected "ambassador" for the United Nations' sustainable development goals (Elle Hunt, [London Guardian](#), Feb. 8). — CS

# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Mon., February 12, 2018

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## 1. POLITICS:

### **5 things to watch as Trump unveils budget plan**

President Trump releases his budget request today, with proposed cuts expected for research, renewable energy and climate programs.

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#### TOP STORIES

## 2. WHITE HOUSE:

### **Trump set to diminish EPA's role in federal construction**

## 3. CONGRESS:

### **Budget deal points to realities of warming — sort of**

## 4. ADAPTATION:

### **Highway Admin website says climate's a problem. So we asked**

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#### CONGRESS

## 5. POLITICS:

### **Ex-coal boss drops \$400K on his Senate bid**

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## 6. PEOPLE:

### **Ex-utility CEO goes off the grid**

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#### STATES

## 7. CALIFORNIA:

### **Paltry snows could send state 'screaming into a drought'**

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### **Calif. wants utilities to cut GHGs by half**

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#### BUSINESS

## 9. RENEWABLES:

### **Cheap wind attracts telecom giants**

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#### RESEARCH

## 10. SCIENCE:

### **Hurricanes exposed underwater 'Garden of Eden'**

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ENERGYWIRE — Mon., February 12, 2018



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1. NATURAL GAS:

**Feds order partial shutdown at Cheniere LNG export site**

Federal regulators have ordered Cheniere Energy Inc. to shut down part of its liquefied natural gas export terminal in Louisiana after multiple leaks from storage tanks were discovered in late January.

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TOP STORIES

2. GRID:

**Researchers rev up electrification outlook**

3. NUCLEAR:

**Lobbying heft lands Vogtle tax credit extension**

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ELECTRICITY

4. SOLAR:

**'We're so far apart' — a squabble renewed in La.**

5. MISSOURI:

**Senate passes utility-backed bill after daylong filibuster**

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OIL AND GAS

6. POLICY:

**Record U.S. energy exports barely move overall deficit**

7. OFFSHORE DRILLING:

**New Middle East player looks to join the exports club**

8. OIL MARKETS:

**Chinese crude futures contract to launch in March**

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**New, tiny fracking quakes unsettle the Scoop and Stack**

10. BUSINESS:

**SandRidge CEO, CFO leave in company shake-up**

11. BUSINESS:

**Gazprom global trade guru leaves**

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